

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

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June 2011

To: Iowa 4-H Home Improvement, Clothing & Fashion,
Sewing & Needle Arts Exhibit Judges
Re: Exhibit Judging Reminders

As we write this, the first four county fairs are underway or completed. Four down, 96 to go!

With the fair season heating up in earnest after the July 4 holiday, we wanted to remind those judging county fairs in 2011 to review the resources available to exhibit judges.

Before you judge at county fairs, be sure to review:

- The April 4, 2011 webinar recording explaining changes in exhibit classes
- 2011 4-H Exhibit Rules and Class Descriptions
- Tip Sheets and Hot Sheets for Home Improvement, Clothing & Fashion, Sewing & Needle Arts
- Judges Tip Sheet reviewing the 2011 exhibit changes.

All judging resources are located on the 4-H Judges web page at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/adults/judges/>.

Special Notes for Judges:

- 1) Design Elements and Art Principles – emphasis during exhibit evaluation should be on the exhibitor use of DE/AP in the creation of their exhibit to accomplish their exhibit goals. Help the exhibitor focus on the most relevant terms for their exhibit, not simply a listing of all that were used. Keep in mind the stages of youth development. Members may know about line, color, shape, rhythm, balance but may not associate them with the phrase “design elements” or “art principles”. Younger members should not be expected to be as familiar with or as articulate about them as experienced members. Use the judging conference to ask developmentally appropriate questions of the members and their use of DE/AP as they may not have included that information in their “write-up”. If they can explain it to you, that is acceptable.
- 2) One way to help 4-H’ers put design elements and art principles into context is to review the 4-H project materials and other resources appropriate to the project area. For example, eHow.com has a good yet simple article about writing an Interior Design Concept Statement. (http://www.ehow.com/how_5233205_write-interior-design-concept-statement.html) Information such as this would be good to share with Home Improvement exhibitors. The 4-H project materials have excellent

information about how to use and apply design elements and art principles. I think many times 4-H members, and we as adults, try to make the use of design elements and art principles too complex. Help members simplify and apply the concepts. It is not expected that 4-H'ers will write a design concept statement for every exhibit. That would not be appropriate. It would be appropriate that they can share, for example, how the design elements in a piece of furniture complement/accent the room. It would be appropriate they can explain the choice of design, choice of material, choice of colors in a quilt.

- 3) Some rules are meant to be broken – Encourage creativity and originality while still paying attention to fundamental design concepts. We want to encourage individual expression of 4-H'ers creative talents. Use of repurposed or reclaimed materials/items can sometimes challenge conventional thinking. That's OK. Young people will push limits in the use of trendy concepts in clothing and home design. That's OK if members can explain their process and reasoning. (Anyone remember the "Steam Punk" dress created by the Grateful Thread team in the 2010 Stitch This! event? Here are a couple photos to refresh your memory:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/iowa4h/4926775290/in/set-72157624804880006>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/iowa4h/4926179873/in/set-72157624804880006>)
Help foster innovation in our young people as you work with them during exhibit judging.

We thank you for your continued support of the Iowa 4-H program and for all you do to encourage 4-H members during the exhibit evaluation experience. Best wishes for a great summer.

Sincerely,



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